

Woodside Park Hatch Rd

Hatch Sandy Beds

SG19 1PT

March 9, 2003

Re Woodside Appeal Descion

Mr. John Prescott Deputy Prime Minister  
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister  
House of Commons Westminster  
London

Dear Mr. Deputy Prime Minister,

I AM writing to you regarding the planning appeal descion that was made on Woodside Park in June 2002.

11 People from Woodside submitted separate planning applications to mid Beds District council and made separate appeals to the Secretary of State.

I being unable to read did not realize until recently that the Inspector although listening to all the peoples evidence for appeal, only sent one of the applications forward for you to look at and make a descion on.

This is worrying as we each hoped our appeals would be studied by yourself prior to making a descion. I feel that we have not had a fair hearing of our case because you did not see all the evidence we each separately put forward to be looked at.

We do not understand how someone can make a descion on something if they have not seen what it is. We are trying to make a home here for our families and it is hard to do so when you are from the Gypsy community. I am writing regarding plot 7/16 application Nos.,

APPEAL D FILE Ref APP/J0215/A/01/1067675,

APPEAL C FILE Ref APP/J0215/A/01/1067671

Both in the names of the Codona Family. For 5 years Mid Beds Council have neglected their duty towards Gypsies and making provision for them. We think Woodside is the perfect location for homes for the Gypsy Community and also as a means for affordable housing/Homes. As it would make the perfect Mobile Home Park also.

We bought Woodside with Planning permission for 152 Touring caravans, Thinking this is better than just buying a piece of land. We have been denied everything even the tourer permission. We were turned down due to Flooding and Fear of Crime. We have since proved that it does not flood and the Crime in our area were we live is non existent.

We also would like to make a complaint regarding using the Police in a planning descion, Because it is a considerable consideration along with Flooding.

Our police made a comment that the residents fear crime will increase if a Gypsy site or home is allowed in an area. We have challenged them and they said they must write this down as that is what the Settled community automatically thinks if a Gypsy site is proposed. The police do not get to know us first and then make a descion. Well this is wrong and infringes on our basic Human Rights Article 8/14.

How can we ever expect to integrate into the community if we are not even given a chance? My family and I work with the Police and sit on their Independent Advisory Group. But still this statement would be used against me in a planning application so how do we stand a chance to make homes and prove our selves to the Community?

My family and I have been trying for 5 years secure a home for our selves and it has been stressful and we have had to live under the constant threat of eviction. We are saddened that our application did not even make it be seen by yourself when you were the one making the descion on our fate.

We would like it explained how this is why. We have crossed many barriers during our struggle for a home, and we have proven ourselves to the Community but we are still not given a chance why?

Every time someone from the Gypsy community wants to make a home it is hard because no one wants us in their back yards, but we are decent people most of us like all other communities and they are given a chance.

Local Authorities are unhelpful towards Gypsies and only want rid of us, but where do we go and where can we live. Even Gypsy people like us that have proven we are honest decent people are still not given a chance in life. The planning system towards Gypsies needs looked at and changes need made. We are different from the settled community and should therefore be treated thus when it comes to planning matters.

When like my family we prove our local Authority wrong in their decision against our application still it does not make a difference then something is terribly wrong. We would just like our application seen and a decision made on it regarding our family and not just an overall view made on a different application altogether.

We feel we have proved ourselves as decent individuals who deserve a home and one we have funded ourselves at no cost to Local Authorities and Government, we just want the right to live and bring up our family in peace without the constant threat of being made homeless. And put back onto the roadsides we came off of in the first place, don't you agree.

Respectfully yours,

Cliff Codona  
Chairman and co founders of (NTAG)  
National Travellers Action Group